



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2025, No. 4

April 2025



Tailgate 3-22 by Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

Weatherwise it was perfect. All that wind we had before mostly held off for the day. We had a good turn out and raised \$77 for the library fund. Thanks to Richard Garcia, KI5ZZE for collecting the donations. Rodney, AA5RB had a good selection of Silent Key items to sell.



Gary Dusbabek, KI5GRD had a table with his DIY Build: Base-Loaded 40 Meter Coil for 17 ft Whip. For those who missed his table you can his DIY Wolf River Coil

<https://www.ki5grd.org/p/build-base-loaded-40-meter-coil-for>

Gary has a variety of DIY parts for coil build. You can purchase the parts at <https://southtxradio.square.site/>

The next meeting, April 10, 2025, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602.

VOLUNTEER! VOLUNTEER! WE NEED YOUR HELP

Vice President

We are in great need of a Vice President. What does the VEEP do? Obviously stands in for the President when he can't be at a meeting. The VP is also in charge of scheduling programs for the meeting. Call Paul Guido, N5IUT.

What is the most important thing A SARC member can do for Radio Fiesta 2025?

ANS: Sign up on the online work assignment form at the meeting or online (<https://w5sc.org/rf-vol/>) to help Aubrey Mason, WA6DMI Radio Fiesta 2025 Chairperson. You can volunteer for a 2-hour shift, multiple 2-hour shifts, or for the entire period that a job exists.: **This is it, our annual fundraiser event. No prior experience needed; you just need a willingness to help.**

Rapid Radio



Rapid Radio. It is one of the latest things in personal communications. What is it?

It is a miniature walkie talkie device that allows a person to communicate over short or long distances. It is not a radio. It is a cell device that uses the data side of cell towers to communicate. That potentially gives it a nationwide reach.

Continued on Page 6

PRESIDENT’S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
4R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX			April 2025
TO							

Hello South Texas,

I was born and raised in San Antonio, but I did not get my ham radio license here. My immediate family lived in Rockport Texas for many years. Year round we would see the storms coming and going across Aransas Bay.

In 1986, we saw a TV Public Service Announcement from the Corpus Christi Amateur Radio Club (CCARC) about a class for the Technicians Amateur Radio license, including 5 Word per Minute Morse Code training at the Red Cross building in Corpus Christi. My Father and I took the class. I passed during the summer class (N5IUT) and my father (N5JKH) passed the code during the winter class.

For the second half of 1986 I explored Packet Radio. Computer to computer networking over radio. When the tropospheric propagation was good on 145.01 MHz, I could reach a digipeater in Kenedy, Texas (KDY), from there I could hop into San Antonio. A person saw me using the KDY digipeater and connected to my station. That is how I met my Elmer, (radio slang for mentor) Harry Ridenour N0CCW.

73 Paul Guido, N5IUT, President, San Antonio Radio Club

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

7:00 p. m., March 13, 2025

Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentation: Bill Craft, KD2HIQ. BlueDV with AMBE3000 and ThumbDV USB device: Software-based alternative to digital hand-held radios. Can send/receive DMR/Fusion/DSTAR/NXDR via computer with internet access.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no additions or changes, the minutes were passed without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT – Tailgate event March 22 @ Encino Library. \$5 donation to sell. 8 AM to 2 PM. SADRC breakfast on 3/15/25 @ Lupe Tortilla, 8 A – noon.

Vice President – Position Vacant– If interested in filling this position, contact Paul Guido.

Secretary – Jack Bannin, N5JLB – The minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April, KI5CSK – Finance review completed.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – No report

Education and Training – Marvin “Marlo” Brown (KJ5BQV) & Travis Buhler (KI5TXG): No report.

Emergency Communications – Ned Lee KG5US – Opportunity for learning: 3/20/25 and 3/22/25 on how to be prepared for disaster. RSVP required to Ned Lee, 210.XXX.XXXX (omitted for privacy reasons, since minutes are uploaded to the club’s website).

Web Site – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

If you have anything for Facebook publication, contact Aubrey Mason
Activities for March 2025

1. Web Site-
 - a. Posted newsletters
 - b. Tailgate
2. Groups.io
 - a. Updated membership list
 - b. Updated calendar
3. Mail chimp- Meeting notice, Zoom Notice
4. Twitter
5. Facebook -Meeting notice

MEMBERSHIP

Membership	As of 3/10/2025		
Paid 108	New Members for 2025		
Free / Mil 5	First	Last	Call
Family Members 17	Coty	Lawson	
Free / RF 3	Patrick	Larkin	
Free / VE 14	Adam	Gonzalez	
ARRL Members 80	Tyler	Ribordy	AH6WC
Total Membership 147			

Notes: TAILGATE March 22 8am-2pm. Encino Library.

POTA: 4/12/25 scheduled. Details to follow.

Fox Hunt – Steve Ortiz – KJ5HIH – None scheduled. Two will be scheduled for 2025.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed March 9, 2025. Contact Jimmy if you want to contribute an article for publication. Deadline is the Monday before the monthly meeting.

Field Day – Jon April: No Report

Finance and Review – Completed by Calvin Frasier. No discrepancies noted.

JOTA – Position vacant. No Report. October 2025 event.

Centennial Committee – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – Swag is still available (coins, patches, pins).

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – Coordinating with venue to clarify table placement. If you have ideas for a different venue location, please contact Aubrey Mason or Paul Guido.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P

Testing opportunities:

AA5RO, 3/15/25 @ American Red Cross building.

SARC tests are at the Leon Valley library 12:00
 6425 Evers Rd
 Leon Valley, TX 78238

Apr 26 12:00
 June 7 Radio Fiesta 1:30
 June 29 Field Day
 Aug 23 12:00
 Oct 25 12:00 Leon Valley Fire Station
 Dec 20 12:00

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – Received new donations over the past two weeks, including some service manuals. Also received donations of rotors, amplifiers (2000 w), and other materials. All items are listed in Rodney’s binder, available to all.

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No Report.

Scholarship Committee – This year, we will raffle Icom radios. 3 prizes. 1st: IC-7610, 2nd IC-7300, 3rd ID-52A. Nominate your favorite young local ham today for these scholarships! Tickets on sale now for \$25 each. Maximum tickets to sell: 400.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) – None.

New Business – None

Announcements

- Tailgate: March 22 8am-2pm. More info: <https://w5sc.org/tailgate/>
- Belkin Ham Radio Convention 4/4 (setup) – 4/5/25.
- Cross Communication in Hondo closing. 50% everything.
- National Emergency Management and Response. Focus is medical staffing, sheltering, mass feeding. Wants to expand communication capability. If interested in working in one of their command platforms if activated. Representative offered to conduct a demonstration to the club, if desired. Website: Nationalemr.us.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:40.

Rapid Radio (Continued)

OK, it sounds good. What is the downside? The radios need to be within a cellular network for them to work. If you're in a spot without LTE coverage, they won't perform. The Rapid Radio brand is not waterproof. While there is no monthly fee, there is an annual \$50 charge for "maintenance." If you want to go international, the cost is \$100 a year. Sounds like a fee to me.

So, is Rapid Radio useful? For people who are not technically able, it works. The company sets the units up for you and you just charge it up and use it. The sound is clear

and if you are within range of a cell, you can talk all over the US.

There are several manufacturers with similar units that work on the same principle. They are not devices that use RF signals unit to unit or through a repeater. They are cellular devices that work across several cellular services using a sim card. If it meets your requirements for emergency communications, such as when you lose your phone or you are out of range of your service, then Rapid Radio can save the day. Otherwise....



Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Coordinator

No report for This month

2025 Tests to be announced

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act



The April issue of QST, page 69 has an article on the re-introduced Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. In the coming months, ARRL will be contacting members asking them to go on line and send letters to our U S

Senators and Congress members.

Hopefully, ALL club members will call their Representatives requesting their support.

Here's some history on the issue in Congress:

--H.R.4006 Sponsor, Rep. Johnson (R-Ohio 8) Introduced 06/12/2023 First Sponsor

--04/09/2024 Reintroduced Energy and Commerce Committee

From the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association [S.3690, also known as the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act](#), is a bill introduced in the United States Senate on January 30, 2024. It aims to prohibit certain private land use restrictions that hinder the installation and operation of amateur radio antennas.

From ARRL

Senators Roger Wicker and Richard Blumenthal Introduce S.3690 to Eliminate Private Land Use Restrictions on Amateur Radio

02/14/2024

On January 30, 2024, US Senators Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT) introduced [S.3690](#), the Senate companion bill to H.R.4006, [introduced last June](#). Both bills reflect the Congressional campaign efforts

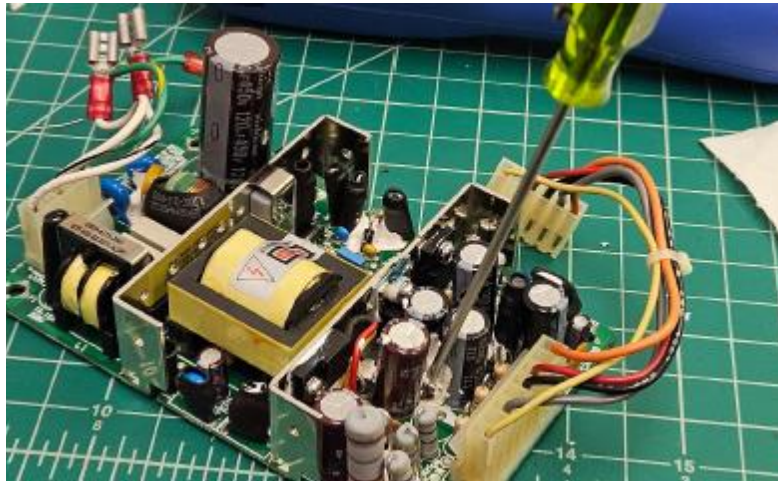
ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, Chair of the ARRL's Government Affairs Committee, both extended on behalf of ARRL, its Members, and the Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Senator Wicker and Senator Blumenthal in their continuing efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

A photograph showing two men in a workshop or classroom setting. They are standing behind a table covered with various electronic components, including resistors, capacitors, and integrated circuits. One man, wearing a yellow shirt, is smiling at the camera. The other man, wearing a green shirt, is looking down at the components. The background shows other tables and equipment, suggesting a larger workspace.

Melt the goo

Planning to replace capacitors in a switched-mode power supply?

You probably will encounter a hardened adhesive goo that discourages component removal. The trick is to use a heat gun to heat the tip of a Greenie screwdriver, then immediately apply the tip of the hot screwdriver to the hardened goo. It will soften upon contact, making removal of the component possible. The Greenie pinpoints the heat so as not to damage other components, which might occur if you just directed the heat gun onto the assembly.



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

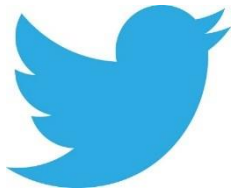
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.



Reminder: there are two active X (Twitter) accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, check the club web page, W5SC.org

License Testing Dates for 2025

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

JOTA

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually on the third full weekend in October.

JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. JOTA 2023 was held at McGimsey Scout Park Cub Pavilion 10810 Wedgewood Dr, Castle Hills, TX 78213.

. Anyone wanting to operate a station next year need to do the BSA Youth protection Training (YPT) and complete BSA Health forms.

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-570-0335

